

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 04096 262204Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 OES-09 HEW-04 COME-00
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /046 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5463

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DEPT PLEASE PASS USDA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, DR
SUBJECT: AFRICAN SWINE FEVER BRIEFING FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT

1. AT HIS REQUEST, EMBOFFS MET WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT ANTONIO GUZMAN TO PROVIDE BRIEFING ON STATUS OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER PROBLEM IN DR. PRESENT AT BRIEFING, IN ADDITION TO GUZMAN, WERE AGATT, LEADER AND MEMBER OF USDA VETERINARY TEAM SENT TO DR TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON AFRICAN SWINE FEVER OUTBREAK, POL COUNSELOR AND E/C COUNSELOR.
2. GUZMAN APPARENTLY HAD BEEN ADVISED IN GENERAL TERMS ON PROBLEM THROUGH HIS OWN SOURCES. HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN NOT HAVING TO SLAUGHTER ALL PIGS IN THE DR, SO THAT EVENTUAL REPLENISHMENT COULD COME FROM ACCLIMATIZED DOMESTIC STOCK. HE ASKED IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO CORDON OFF PIG-GROWING AREAS CURRENTLY JUDGED FREE OF DISEASE, AND ALSO WANTED TO KNOW HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE FOR VIRUS TO DISAPPEAR IF INFECTED AREAS WERE DE-POPULATED AND KEPT FREE OF PIGS. (GUZMAN DOES NOT THINK THAT A PROGRAM OF CLEANING AND DISINFECTING IS VIABLE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE).
3. TEAM INFORMED GUZMAN THAT AN AREA CURRENTLY FREE OF DISEASE (WHICH COULD BE ASSUMED ONLY AFTER CLOSE INSPECTION AND TESTING)

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COULD REMAIN SO IF ALL MOVEMENT OF PIGS OR PORK PRODUCTS INTO CLEAN AREA WERE STOPPED. LIFE OF VIRUS IN INFECTED AREA CLEARED OF PIGS COULD BE NINE MONTHS TO A YEAR OR LONGER, DEPENDING ON SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES. WITH AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM OF CLEANING AND DISINFECTING, COMBINED WITH ERADICATION OF VIRUS-CARRYING TICKS (A SPECIAL TYPE OF TICK NOT KNOWN TO BE PRESENT IN THE DR) IF NECESSARY, TIME SPAN COULD BE REDUCED TO 120 DAYS.

4. GUZMAN HAD REQUESTED BRIEFING BECAUSE HE WAS HIGHLY DUBIOUS THAT THE PRESENT GODR WAS TAKING EFFECTIVE STEPS TO DEAL WITH WHAT HE SAW AS A MAJOR NATIONAL CATASTROPHE. HE EXPRESSED WARM THANKS TO THE TEAM FOR CLARIFYING HIS THINKING ON VARIOUS APPROACHES TO DEAL WITH THE SWINE FEVER CRISIS.
YOST

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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